

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 11 are the only claims in independent form. The presently pending claims have been amended in order to expedite the allowance of the present application and to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite with regard to the term "followed." Pursuant to suggestions set forth in the outstanding Office Action, the presently pending independent claims have been amended to specifically state that the cysteine at position number 29 is "immediately followed" by the Trp Asp Lys Glu sequence. Additionally, the presently pending independent claims have been amended to include the specific sequence listing of SEQ ID No: 42. As a result of these amendments to the claims, the presently pending claims are no longer indefinite. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

According to the Office Action, there is a sequence listing discrepancy with regard to SEQ ID No: 4. Specifically, the Office Action holds that there is a discrepancy with regard to the originally filed sequence listing and the substitute sequence listings filed February 6, 2003, and May 1, 2003. In response thereto, enclosed herewith is a substitute sequence listing (paper copy and CRF) setting forth the originally filed SEQ ID No: 4. Applicants maintain no new matter has been added by the amendment of the paper copy and submission of the substitute CRF of the sequence listing. Also enclosed is a statement under 37 CFR §1.825 that the substitute paper copy and substitute CRF of the sequence listing are identical. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance as it removes all remaining issues in dispute. Specifically, the amendment follows suggestions set forth in the Office Action and clarifies the present invention. As a result, no remaining issues are in dispute. Since there is no prior art cited against any of these claims, it is

respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. It is also respectfully submitted that the present amendment places the application in condition for appeal. The claims have not been made broader in scope, thereby requiring no further searching nor raise any new issues. In fact, all claims now include limitations of previously pending claims and were therefore previously searched.


It is respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered in order to place the application in condition for allowance or at least in better condition for appeal. The application is placed in condition for allowance as it addresses and resolves each and every issue that remains pending. The claims have also been amended to clearly distinguish them over the prior art. The application is made at least in better condition for appeal as the amendment removes any issues thereby simplifying the issues on appeal. That is, each and every rejection has been overcome. Hence, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered.

Applicants respectfully request to be contacted by telephone if any remaining issues exist.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 11-1449.

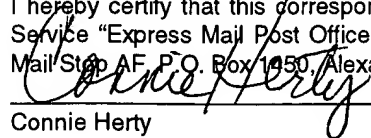
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop AF, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 19, 2004.


Connie Herty